

OCDBE

THE OHIO CENTER FOR
DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

Professional Learning
Opportunity

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education • 3246 Henderson Rd. • Columbus, OH 43220 • 614-897-0020 • www.ohiodeafblind.org

Communication That Counts: Connecting with Children Who Are Deafblind and Have Additional Disabilities (2-part series)

Presented by: Lyn Ayer, PhD

November 4 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (ET) and November 10 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (ET)

Program description: *Communication That Counts: Connecting with Children Who Are Deafblind and Have Additional Disabilities* is a two-part series that considers communication from two different angles for children who are deafblind and have additional needs. Children with deafblindness and complex needs are often left out of interactions with others. They are seen as non- or minimally responsive participants. Sometimes they are believed to be unwilling to participate, just too “involved, confused, overwhelmed, or even lazy.” With a conscious effort, meaningful connections with children with deafblindness can help provide meaningful communication that counts.

Guest speaker: Dr. Lyn Ayer has extensive expertise in working with children with visual impairments, deafblindness, and/or multiple disabilities throughout her professional career of more than 45 years. Dr Ayer has been the director of two state deafblind projects, a principal of a school for the blind, and a teacher, and is currently a consultant with the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education.

Session 1: Making a Conversation Meaningful November 4, 2021 2:00-3:00 pm (ET)

Making a Conversation Meaningful focuses on questions such as: How can these children connect with the people around them if they cannot speak or sign? Do they express what they like or don't like? How do they convey emotions and how is this understood by the other persons in the conversation? How do you identify and take advantage of teachable moments? What special skills does the person communicating with them need?

Session 1 - Learning Objectives *Participants will learn:*

1. What makes a “meaningful” conversation for children who are deafblind with multiple impairments
2. How to create conversations without speech or sign
3. The value of developing observational skills to anticipate and recognize when a child is ready and willing to participate

Registration link for session 1: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEcommunicationNov42021>



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Office of Special Education Programs
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Session 2: From Communication to Literacy November 10, 2021 2:00-3:00 pm (ET)

From Communication to Literacy considers how communication skills can be extended into the realm of pre-literacy and literacy. It also outlines an approach to include these children in literacy activities in the classroom – with peers, with siblings, and others at home. Participation is key!

Session 2 - Learning Objectives *Participants will learn:*

1. How to expand communication to encapsulate literacy
2. The art and science of “recall”
3. Including this population of children (deafblind with multiple disabilities) in literacy activities

Registration link for session 2: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEcommunicationNov102021>

Target audience for both sessions	Parents, educators, related services providers, and agency personnel
Contact hours:	1 contact hour upon completion of the webinar evaluation for each session
Questions:	Contact Kathy Richards via e-mail at Kathryn.richards@uc.edu
Cost:	No cost

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